

**Joint Statement by the African Union and the United States on Food Security**  
*December 15, 2022*

The African Union and the United States reaffirm their shared commitment to realizing African food security by establishing a strategic partnership to guide and accelerate their work.

This strategic framework will reference and build on existing bilateral, regional, multilateral, non-governmental, and philanthropic efforts to advance food security and will leverage the public and private sectors to address immediate and acute food and fertilizer needs in the short-term—including by addressing food supplies that have been disrupted—and promote transformational investments in medium-to long-term sustainable and resilient food systems.

We seek to make concrete progress on the short-term goals and to develop a plan of action for the longer-term goals by the African Union's Summit in February 2023.

*An Urgent Imperative*

The compounding impact of the global pandemic, the climate crisis, high energy and fertilizer prices, as well as protracted conflicts, including Russia's war in Ukraine, have spurred U.S. and African leaders to refocus and scale public and private sector investments to help solve the root causes of the food crisis that has had a disproportionate impact on African nations.

We recognize the critical importance of strengthening, protecting, and accelerating progress towards achieving African food security to enable African countries to trade more and enhance connectivity to critical agricultural markets. We also acknowledge the critical importance of agriculture as a source of millions of jobs and livelihoods across the continent, including among youth and women. We further note the enormous untapped potential the continent represents, home to more than 60 percent of the world's unused arable farmland, and the opportunity that represents in terms of Africa's role in addressing global food insecurity. Through this strategic partnership, we intend to utilize all diplomatic, multilateral, technical, and financial tools to build stronger and diversified food systems and supply chains, to scale Africa's agricultural production capacity and to invest in more resilient agricultural sectors.

We reaffirm the commitments of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), the Malabo Declaration and its Call to Action, and the Global Food Security Summit held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, for emergency assistance as well as medium- to long-term investments for resilient food systems to address chronic food insecurity as well as the priority actions outlined in the International Financial Institutions (IFI) Action Plan to Address Food Insecurity and the African Development Bank's African Emergency Food Production Plan. We also note the Dakar International Conference on Agriculture to be co-hosted by the Government of Senegal and AfDB on January 25–27, 2023.

We also recognize the importance of intensifying efforts related to climate adaptation, soil health and fertility, and the widespread use of improved agricultural inputs.

*U.S.-Africa Food Security Framework*

To meet these goals, this U.S.-Africa strategic partnership will address both short-term and longer-term priorities. The United States is committed to leveraging its unique convening power to bring together the private sector and international financial institutions to address underinvestment and to identify and remove obstacles that impede Africa's full participation in global food and fertilizer supply chains and markets. In turn, the African Union will politically

commit that participating AU members will address and remove obstacles that impede agriculture-centered investments.

*In the short-term:*

- Identify means for Africa to secure more diverse and resilient sources of grain and fertilizer supply—in the very near term and on a commercial basis—to meet its immediate needs.
- Where there is an acute need for humanitarian assistance, we will work together to provide immediate life-saving assistance, including cash, food and nutrition supplies—including where possible, by sourcing from the continent—to prevent famine or malnutrition, while helping to prepare for future shocks and pilot resilient investments.

*In the medium- and long-term, the United States and Africa will exert leadership to address chronic underinvestment and policy shortcomings with respect to agriculture and food systems, in concert with other willing partners to:*

- Explore ways to improve Africa's access to global markets for agricultural commodities.
- Highlight the importance of African governments carrying out the policy reforms needed to achieve food security, notably by improving land access, enhancing the business environment, promoting open trade, and strengthening good governance.
- Identify and promote opportunities for transformative medium- to long-term investments from governments, the private sector—including the U.S. private sector, and multilateral development banks to strengthen the climate-resilience of agriculture and food systems, improve productivity, and increase sustainability.
- Increase the reliable and sustainable access to fertilizers and their inputs, with a focus on climate-smart alternatives, soil management and fertilizer efficiency techniques, to prevent shortages, reduce dependency on single-source fertilizer producers, help increase competition among fertilizer producers, and help increase crop yields in vulnerable African food markets.
- Focus on diversifying the production of agricultural commodities, including core commodities and traditional crops. This includes strengthening the physical and digital infrastructure and logistical supply chains to produce fertilizers and grow food and to cultivate, store and transport food efficiently. In addition, this effort will seek to improve transportation of food within regional food markets to bolster inter-regional trade and reduce single supplier dependency of African food systems.
- Promote effective agricultural production practices, approaches, and research and development across the full agricultural ecosystem, including greater access to innovative financial tools.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement, which was released during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

*Categories:* Joint Statements : African Union, food security.

*Subjects:* Africa, relations with U.S.; African Union; Agricultural production, strengthening efforts; Climate change; COVID-19 pandemic; Fertilizer production and use, efficiency

improvements; Food security, strengthening efforts; Russia, conflict in Ukraine; Ukraine, Russian invasion and airstrikes.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD202201127.